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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/767,248	01/28/2004	Hieu Van Tran	2102397-992820	4785
26379	7590	06/14/2006	EXAMINER	
DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY US, LLP 2000 UNIVERSITY AVENUE E. PALO ALTO, CA 94303-2248			NGUYEN, KHAI M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2819	

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/767,248	<b>Applicant(s)</b> TRAN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Khai M. Nguyen	<b>Art Unit</b> 2819	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/8/2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 3-9, 14-23 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,10-13 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention because which of the bias is meant by "said bias" (in lines 4-5 of claim 10; lines 5-6 of claim 11; and lines 6-7 of claim 13).

Clarification/correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by MacBeth (US 5,982,230).

Regarding claim 1, MacBeth discloses a multi-operational amplifier system (Figs. 1-5) comprising:

a plurality of operational/differential amplifiers (amplifiers 60/70 of Figs. 1-2 and/or transistor pairs 100/101, 102/103 of Fig. 3-4) each having inputs (inverting/non-inverting inputs); and

a controller (including switches 90-92 of Fig. 1; switches 92-94 of Fig. 2; switches 120-121 of Fig. 3; and switches 160-161 of Fig. 4 – column 3, lines 56-62) configured to interconnect (or join together) the inputs of the amplifiers so that to form an adaptive input range of the system (abstract).

Regarding claim 2, MacBeth discloses the multi-operational amplifier system of claim 1, wherein an input of one of the amplifiers (input 101 of Figs. 3-4) is coupled to an input of at least one other of the amplifiers (input 102 of Figs. 3-4).

Regarding claim 24, MacBeth discloses a multi-operational amplifier system (Figs. 1-4) comprising:

a plurality operational amplifiers (amplifiers 60/70 of Figs. 1-2 and/or transistor pairs 100/101, 102/103 of Fig. 3-4); and

a configuration circuit (including switches 90-92 of Fig. 1; switches 92-94 of Fig. 2; switches 120-121 of Fig. 3; and switches 160-161 of Fig. 4 – column 3, lines 56-62) to adaptively interconnect the amplifiers so as to form an adaptive input range of the system, wherein the configuration/configurable circuit comprising digital control signals (digital signals 130 of Figs. 3-4; col. 5, lines 20-22).

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue that the amplifiers as taught by MacBeth cannot be interconnected in any other way besides those shown. For instance, neither amplifier 60, 70 can be disconnected. As noted by the examiner, these languages are not in the rejected claims. Therefore, the rejection is maintained.

***Prior Art***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: US Pub. No. 2003/0025553 A1 to Faris (see entire document).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 3-9 and 14-23 are allowed. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the references of record neither reveal nor render obvious the recited limitations including the controller and compensation network.

***Contact Information***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khai M. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-1809. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 5:30 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rexford (Rex) Barnie can be reached on 571-272-7492. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Khai M. Nguyen  
Art Unit: 2819

571-272-1809

  
REXFORD BARNIE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER